

AMENDMENTS

1-20 (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A replaceable ink container assembly for use in an ink jet printer, the ink container assembly comprising:

a container configured to hold ink;

a first coupling component of a duplex coupler ~~formed~~ removably attached to the container, the ~~duplex coupler~~ first coupling component having a ~~poppet~~ first sealing member configured to discontinue flow from the container through the ~~duplex coupler~~ first coupling component when the duplex coupler is uncoupled; and

wherein the first coupling component is configured to mate with a complimentary second coupling component of the duplex coupler, the second coupling component being ~~formed~~ removably attached to a reservoir of the ink jet printer in a gravity feed configuration and having a second sealing member configured to discontinue flow through the second coupling component when the duplex coupler is uncoupled, so as to mitigate leakage of ink from both the container and the reservoir.

22. (previously added) The replaceable ink container assembly as recited in claim 21, wherein the first coupling component is configured so as to be at least partially inserted into the second coupling component.

23. (currently amended) The replaceable ink container assembly as recited in claim 21, wherein:

the first coupling component is configured so as to facilitate a flow of ink therethrough if when coupled with the complimentary second coupling component ~~formed on~~ attached to the reservoir with the reservoir being positioned below the second coupling component; and ~~wherein~~ said

the reservoir has a floor which is substantially flat.

24. (currently amended) An ink jet printer comprising:

a container configured to hold ink;

a first coupling component of a duplex coupler ~~formed~~ removably attached to the container, the ~~duplex coupler~~ first coupling component having a ~~poppet configured to~~ discontinue first means for discontinuing flow from the container through the duplex coupler first coupling component when the duplex coupler is uncoupled;

a reservoir configured to receive ink from the container in a gravity feed configuration;

a complimentary second coupling component of the duplex coupler ~~formed~~ removably attached to the reservoir, the second coupling component having a second means for discontinuing flow through the second coupling component when the duplex coupler is uncoupled; and

wherein the first coupling component is configured to selectively mate with the second coupling component, whereby the duplex coupler may be selectively coupled to cause the flow of ink therethrough and may be selectively uncoupled to discontinue the flow therethrough by way of the first discontinuing means discontinuing the flow of ink through the first coupling

component and the second discontinuing means discontinuing the flow of ink through the second coupling component when the duplex coupler is uncoupled, so as to mitigate leakage of ink from both the container and the reservoir.

25. (previously added) The ink jet printer as recited in claim 24, wherein the first coupling component is configured so as to be at least partially inserted into the second coupling component.

26. (currently amended) The ink jet printer as recited in claim 24, wherein:
the first coupling component is configured so as to facilitate a flow of ink therethrough if when coupled with the complimentary second coupling component ~~formed on~~ attached to the reservoir with the reservoir being positioned below the second coupling component; and ~~wherein~~ said

the reservoir has a floor which is substantially flat.

27. (currently amended) A method for operating an ink jet printer, the method comprising:

providing a container configured to hold ink, the container having a first coupling component of a duplex coupler ~~formed~~ removably attached thereto, the ~~duplex coupler~~ first coupling component having a ~~poppet~~ first sealing member configured to discontinue flow through the ~~duplex coupler~~ first coupling component when the duplex coupler is uncoupled;

providing a reservoir configured in a gravity feed arrangement to receive ink from the container, the reservoir having a complimentary second coupling component of the duplex

coupler ~~formed~~ removably attached thereto, the second coupling component having a second sealing member configured to discontinue flow through the second coupling component when the duplex coupler is uncoupled; and

coupling the first and second coupling components so as to open the respective first and second sealing members and facilitating allow a flow of ink from the container to the reservoir through the duplex coupler.

28. (previously added) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein the first coupling component is configured so as to be at least partially inserted into the second coupling component.

29. (currently amended) The method as recited in claim 27, wherein:
the first coupling component is configured so as to facilitate a flow of ink therethrough if when coupled with the complimentary second coupling component ~~formed on~~ attached to the reservoir with the reservoir being positioned below the second coupling component; and ~~wherein~~ said

the reservoir has a floor which is substantially flat.

30. (currently amended) The replaceable ink container assembly as recited in claim 23 wherein the floor has a pitch to ~~it to~~ urge ink towards an exit port.

31. (previously added) The replaceable ink container assembly as recited in claim 30 wherein a line in fluid communication with the port directs ink flowing through the port to a pump which then directs the ink to at least one print head.

32. (currently amended) The ink jet printer as recited in claim 26 wherein the floor has a pitch to ~~it to~~ urge ink towards an exit port.

33. (currently amended) The ink jet printer as recited in claim 26 32 further including a line in fluid communication with the port to thereby direct ink flowing through the port to a pump which then directs the ink to at least one print head.

34. (previously added) The method as recited in claim 29 including the further step of putting a pitch in the floor of the reservoir to thereby direct ink in the reservoir to a port.

35. (previously added) The method as recited in claim 29 including the further step of attaching a line in fluid communication to the port to thereby direct ink to a pump which pumps the ink to at least one print head.

36. (currently amended) The replaceable ink container assembly as recited in claim 21 wherein the gravity feed configuration comprises:

the container being positioned above the reservoir with the first coupling component of the container connected to the second coupling component of the ink reservoir; ; and

the reservoir having a substantially flat floor with a downward pitch towards an exit port at a lower part of the reservoir;

~~so that~~ whereby ink in the container will flow out of the container through the coupled duplex coupler and into the reservoir and out of the exit port.

37. (currently amended) The replaceable ink container assembly as recited in claim 36 wherein the exit port has a fluid line attached ~~to it~~ thereto so as to direct ink to at least one ~~print~~ print head.

38. (currently amended) The replaceable ink container assembly as recited in claim 37 wherein the fluid line includes a pump to force ink flowing through the exit port to the at least one print head.

39. (currently amended) The ink jet printer as recited in claim 24 wherein the gravity feed configuration comprises:

the container being positioned above the reservoir with the first coupling component of the container connected to the second coupling component of the ink reservoir; ; and

the reservoir having a substantially flat floor with a downward pitch towards an exit port at a lower part of the reservoir, the exit port having a first end of fluid line connected to it and a second end of the fluid line being connected to at least one print head;

~~so that~~ whereby ink in the container will flow out of the container through the coupled duplex coupler and into the reservoir and out of the exit port wherein the fluid line directs the ink to the at least one print head.

40. (currently amended) The ink jet printer as recited in claim 39 wherein the fluid line includes a pump to force ink flowing through the exit port to the at least a one print head.

41. (new) The replaceable ink container assembly of claim 21 wherein:
the first sealing member is a first poppet having a first tip end;
the second sealing member is a second poppet having a second tip end; and
the first and second poppets are configured such that when the first and second coupling components are coupled, the first and second tip ends engage so as to force the respective first and second poppets to open and allow flow through the duplex coupler.

42. (new) The replaceable ink container assembly of claim 21 wherein:
the first coupling component includes a housing having an extension;
the first sealing member is a poppet;
the second sealing member is a sleeve surrounding an axial post; and
the sleeve, extension, poppet and post are configured such that when the first and second coupling components are coupled, the sleeve and the extension engage so as to force the sleeve to compress and provide a through passage for the flow of ink through the second coupling component and the poppet and post engage so as to force the poppet to open and allow flow through the first coupling component, thereby allowing flow through the duplex coupler.

43. (new) The replaceable ink container assembly of claim 21 wherein the second coupling component is removably attached to the reservoir through an adapter threadably received within a neck of the reservoir.